MARCH 1996

RADIO AMATEURS OF CANADA

MONTHLY NEWS BULLETIN

EDITOR'S RAMBLINGS

This editorial page does not have one theme only. It is now getting too mild to do any work on your antennae, if you have not done so yet, wait till next December. In the meantime get ready for the Summer.

With Spring in the air, says he with the temperature still in the frigid zone, it is time to think of Field Day and how you can attract the public to see and understand the role of amateur radio in the community. It is a golden opportunity to show the general public one aspect of our hobby that is not well known. When you have to use your emergency communication system for real, it is not the time to try and sell the hobby to the general public but it is time to provide the emergency communications. Get the media involved at Field Day, and prepare carefully for this occasion.

If you recall, a few months ago, we had a survey going on the distribution channels for this monthly bulletin. We definitely did not get the response that I had anticipated! I have calculated that at least 2 to 3000 readers around the world have access and/or read this monthly bulletin. If we accept that the normal response to a survey is about 15%, we should have received between 300 to 500 answers. Well what we have received is a maximum of 150 answers! And what was the regular answer? "Keep all the distribution channels open, and if you have to cut one, do not cut mine!"

I am amazed and also greatly disturbed by the general lack of response from the membership. I suspect that this situation has evolved from the following line of thinking: "Why should I answer? My neighbour will answer..." With this attitude we may loose what we have gained over the years and will have only ourselves to blame. I see a repeat here of the election results situation of last fall where only a small minority of the eligible members voted and then a vocal minority started to complain... Get involved, it is your association. Be an active member. To those who have sent answers to our survey, "Thank you".

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VE3DWK AND VE3AR JOIN THE IARU EMC COMMITTEE

International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Region 2 EMC Committee Chair Noel Donawa, **9Y4NED** has appointed Douglas Leach, **VE3DWK** as Secretary to a new Region 2 Electromagnetic Working Committee. The committee has been struck by the IARU Region 2 Executive to coordinate information and to follow-up on electromagnetic interference matters throughout IARU's North and South American regions. Before retiring, Doug was CEO of a major electronic corporation marketing electronic measurement equipment, including that used for EMC testing.

VE3AR, Bill Loucks will also serve on this same committee. Before his retirement, Bill was employed by Ontario Hydro in the engineering department. He has also been involved with the Canadian Institute for the Blind investigating and resolving EMC problems for the visually impaired Amateurs

MORE SPECIAL CANADIAN PREFIXES

Industry Canada has authorized all Canadian Radio Amateurs to use special prefixes to mark the 50th anniversary of UNICEF, the United Nations agency concerned with the protection of children victimized by war. From 0000 UTC March 30 until 2359 UTC May 30, 1996, Canadian amateurs may replace their normal callsign prefix with a special prefix as follows:

Regular Prefix	Special Prefix
VE1-9	**VD1-9**
VA2	**VC2**
VA3	**VC3**
VA7	**VC7**
VO1	**VO7**
VO2	**VO8**
VY1	**VY7**
VY2	**VY8**

Forwarded by: Dave Goodwin **VE2ZP**

HAM LICENCE FEES IN BELGIUM

So you think that you are paying too much for your licence! In the last few weeks we have learned from a Belgian ham, that the fees for a full licence in Belgium are about £125 or approximetely $250/year (CAN). The licence is sub-divided in fixed, portable and mobile units, and one has to purchase each unit separately (batteries not included!)

In addition one must purchase special "taxation" stamps to affix to the licence to validate it, just like the stamps that we had to use on our cheques in Canada, many moons ago! These special stamps cost another $15/year. So to operate in all three modes: fixed, portable and mobile, the yearly fees will be in the neighbourhood of $265/year. Lets hope that Canada never gets to those rates!

THE ARRL LETTER UPDATE 1996 03 23

DXCC Disqualification

The ARRL Awards Committee met recently to review submitted documentation for the 1992-93 **P5RS7** operation submitted by Romeo Stepanenko. After a review of all material available, the Awards Committee voted unanimously to disqualify Stepanenko from participation in the DXCC program. This disqualification was based upon Rule 12, Operations Ethics, and Rule 13. The disqualification means that Stepanenko is not eligible to participate in the DXCC program in any manner. This includes--as provided for under Rule 12, paragraph (b)--disallowance of contacts made with any station or DXpedition operated by him from the time of this action.

LEAVE THE H-T BEHIND IF YOU'RE OLYMPICS-BOUND

Andrew Funk, **KB7UV**, a member of the Olympic Broadcast Frequency Coordination Committee, has issued a word of warning for hams coming to Atlanta for the Olympics: "Leave your H-Ts at home!"

"To say things are going to be tightly controlled is an understatement," Funk said, adding that all broadcast-related RF gear will be required to pass an Olympic certification inspection in addition to that required by the FCC. "And I once found Amateur repeater coordination difficult!" joked Funk, who is Assistant News Operations Manager at WAGA-TV in Atlanta.

Funk said the policy will "unfortunately have an impact upon Radio Amateurs attending the games." Since VHF and UHF handheld radios are known to be easily modified for wideband use, security officers will not permit amateur H-Ts at Olympic venues, he said. "Some may argue that this policy is unreasonable. It may or may not be, but it will be in effect and enforced," Funk emphasized.

Michael Smalls, the co-chair of the Olympic Broadcast Frequency Coordination Committee was sympathetic: "We wish it was different," he said. "But, Atlanta is already pretty crowded."

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RADIO PROPAGATION NUMBERS

Here are a few Internet addressess supplied by **VE6UY** for the individuals who want to know what is happening on the Sun. Check them out.

http://www.drao.nrc.ca This is the Penticton Observatory.

http://wwwsel.noaa.gov/forecast.html This is the US NOOA site.

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Remember RAC headquarters: rachq@king.igs.net

NOTICE No. DGRB-002-96

Consultation on radio licence fees - Phase I

The purpose of this notice is to advise all interested parties of the availability of a paper entitled Consultation on radio licence fees - Phase I, representing the first phase of Industry Canada's development of a new radio licence fee regime. In the report, the Department presents the basic elements of a proposed radio licence fee structure based on spectrum consumption and spectrum scarcity.

The paper concludes with a list of subjects that require further exploration and discussion. Industry Canada recognizes the importance of obtaining public input to the further development of this new structure and invites comment on the outstanding issues.

Comments on this paper should be received at Industry Canada, 300 Slater Street, 15th Floor, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0C8, Attention DOSP-A, no later than May 24, 1996.

Copies of Consultation on radio licence fees - Phase I are available from Industry Canada, in Ottawa, from the Department's regional and district offices and via the Internet, at the following address:

http://info.ic.gc.ca/ic-data/telecom/dgse/english/bprs.html.

February 19, 1996. Jan Skora, Director General

Radiocommunications and Broadcasting Regulatory Branch

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Special thanks to Debbie Norman, General Manager RAC,who contributes significantly to the editing and proof-reading of the bulletin. Also acknowledged are those who have forwarded items for the bulletin.

The RAC News Bulletin is published monthly except July and August. The purpose is to circulate Amateur Radio news and information on a timely basis between publishing dates of *The Canadian Amateur magazine.*

All material in the Bulletin may be reprinted but please credit the Bulletin, the original author, and the original publication if one is given.

Please submit original stories or information to the editor before the 5th of the month of publication.

Annual subscriptions to RAC News Bulletin are available by mailing $10 before September 1. Subscription expires every August 31.

Published and printed by:
Radio Amateurs of Canada,
Kingston, ON K7P 2R9.